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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Palestine (Gaza): Complex emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRPS006
GLIDE n° CE-2012-000194-PSE
17 November 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 492,243 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 29,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has, since the beginning of military operations 5 days ago, been providing emergency assistance in the Gaza Strip. Twenty-four of the 41 dead and two hundred and sixteen of the 379 wounded were evacuated, treated and transferred to hospitals day and night.

Since the beginning of the airstrikes that resulted in a high number of fatalities and casualties, PRCS volunteers and staff have been working around the clock to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the wounded throughout the Gaza Strip. More than 200 volunteers have been deployed in Gaza to assist the population.

In addition, the PRCS is coordinating with all relevant parties in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to secure the medical needs of the different hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

The DREF allocation will allow for PRCS to access urgently needed funds to continue providing crucial EMS assistance throughout the Gaza strip, ensure proper treatment for the wounded in health facilities and prepare to expand its aid to the victims of the violence. The PRCS will closely coordinate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) including on procurement and on the transport and treatment of medical cases.



This operation is expected to be implemented immediately and in all cases within one month, and will therefore be completed by 17 December, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 17 March, 2103).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Five days after the beginning of the military activities, the present humanitarian crisis in Gaza has already resulted into 41 dead and 379 injured¹. More than 800 airstrikes were launched in a series of air attacks that have been pounding incessantly the tiny Gaza strip and hundreds of rockets were launched from Gaza towards Israel. Israeli ground forces have massed at the border wall between Israel and Gaza and Israeli sources announced that all military options remain open.

The attacks and airstrikes have already put an additional strain onto PRCS's and local health authorities' capacities to cope with the large numbers of wounded. Gaza has been suffering from a chronic shortage of essential drugs and disposables. In addition, at least two hundred houses have been partially or seriously damaged or destroyed, although direct needs assessment could not take place so far due to restrictions of movement. Electricity cuts, usual for Gaza, are increasing, and at least two transformers have been destroyed.

The high number of ongoing airstrikes is also affecting the psychosocial status of large numbers of Gaza population, already severely affected during the war of 2008-09 and the consequences of a 5 years blockade. Population movements have been observed so far only internally within the Gaza Strip, and it will be necessary to monitor the situation closely as it evolves.

Coordination and partnerships

On Thursday 15th November, PRCS immediately called for a meeting with ICRC and IFRC to coordinate initial actions. A meeting among all Movement partners present in Palestine was held on Saturday 17th to share information and align overall Movement response.

Building on the experiences of the past and taking into account the need to work jointly to face this complex emergency, PRCS, ICRC and IFRC have agreed to work together to consolidate their various appeals for assistance under a joint RCRC framework. The present DREF constitutes immediate support to PRCS to strengthen its operational capacity to enable the NS to continue responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs, whilst the involved National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC continue to develop a joint request for emergency assistance.

The PRCS is coordinating efforts and sharing operational information with inter-agency partners including the office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRCS has since the beginning of the airstrikes; staff and volunteers from PRCS have been evacuating, treating and transferring casualties to the hospitals in the Gaza Strip. Working around the clock, PRCS ambulances have transported 23 of the 41 dead and 201 of the 379 injured. Upon request by the Ministry of Health in Gaza, PRCS has also immediately provided three of its own surgical kits to the public hospitals.

PRCS has activated its Gaza operation room, located within its premises at the Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza city, and the national operations room in Ramallah, and has activated its contingency plans. More than 200 volunteers have been deployed in Gaza. Five PRCS volunteers were lightly wounded. Three PRCS premises (Jabalia branch, Al-Quds Hospital and EMS station in Gaza) suffered minor damage due to explosions nearby.

¹ PRCS sources 18 Nov 2012

ICRC has supplied medicines, disposables, infusions and dressing materials to the ministry of health in Gaza, which then delivered them to hospitals; and provided dressing materials for the ambulances that operate in the Gaza Strip. ICRC is attempting to transport 10 truckloads of medicines and disposables of the Ministry of health Ramallah into Gaza, and has started collecting information together with PRCS on houses damaged in Gaza during the operation with a view to distributing in the coming days emergency supplies to the affected families.

All contributions to PRCS and more generally to the affected population in Gaza will be channelled through the existing coordinated mechanism put in place by PRCS, IFRC and ICRC.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

- Relief assistance: 300 families or 2,000 people whose house has been directly affected by the airstrikes
- Emergency Medical Services: 22,000 people during one month
- Drugs and medical disposables: 5,000 people

The proposed operation

The PRCS intervention will target 29,000 vulnerable people with urgent relief and emergency medical assistance, whilst strengthening the capacity of PRCS staff and volunteers to work effectively with partners.

The IFRC is not operational itself; rather it is supporting the operational role of the PRCS. In recognition of the mandates of the ICRC and PRCS, the IFRC will continue to support Movement coordination and resource mobilization efforts as requested and required.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: In light of the approaching cold season, 300 families or 2,000 people will receive basic non-food items such as blankets, plastic sheeting and family heater
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As soon as security conditions allow for, conduct needs assessment for affected families • Procure relief goods locally or in Egypt • Distribute relief goods according to needs • Monitor and reassess needs

The following relief items will be provided per family according to agreed selection criteria:

- Blankets (2 pieces)
- Plastic sheeting for emergency shelter
- Heater

Emergency health
Outcome: in-patients and injured at PRCS and public hospitals receive appropriate treatment
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of drugs and disposable (detailed list available upon request) in Egypt • Refurbish PRCS Hospitals and health clinics • Supply public hospitals where requested and urgent • Monitor and reassess needs
Outcome: injured and sick continue receiving Emergency Medical Services throughout Gaza
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase fuel from Israel (75,000 litres equal to 30 services per ambulance times 40 ambulances times 30 days times 10 kilometres) • Coordinate the entrance of the fuel through ICRC • Purchase of spare parts for the 40 ambulances stationed in Gaza Strip – this may be done in Egypt • Purchase an additional quantity of fuel (25,000 litres) will supply the generators of PRCS Hospitals and health centres

Logistics

Outcome: proper communications reduce the risks for volunteers and staff; effective management of volunteers throughout the emergency; goods purchased reach the beneficiaries.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Purchase of VHF radios, batteries for volunteers and staff
- Transport goods from Egypt to PRCS premises

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS):** Dr Khaled Joudeh. Director General, Tel: +972 22406515/6/7, Fax: +972 2 2402108, Mobile: +972 599601123. email: joudehk@palestinercs.org
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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Samah Hassoun, Senior Resource Mobilization Officer, Mena Zone, Mobile: + 961 70 480 488, email: samah.hassoun@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

- 1.** Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
- 2.** Enable healthy and safe living.
- 3.** Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

17-11-12

MDRPS006 Palestine (Gaza): Complex emergency

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	75,000
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	36,000
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	80,000
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	16,200
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	207,200
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	35,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machiney & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	35,000
Storage, Warehousing	25,000
Dsitribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	180,000
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	205,000
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	15,000
Total PERSONNEL	15,000
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	0
Communications	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	30,043
Total INDIRECT COSTS	30,043
TOTAL BUDGET	492,243